Press release

PRINTABLE VERSION

Changeable weather forecast for election day

24 May 2001

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Early indications suggest Election Day will occur in the middle of a spell of changeable weather. At this stage, the best chance of warm sunny weather appears to be in the north and west but, generally speaking, temperatures are likely to be near or just below normal.

With two weeks to go, a detailed weather forecast still isn't possible, but a look back through the record books shows early June to be a period of varied weather. Temperatures have soared above 30 °C in the past but, conversely, night frosts have occurred as well.

Average temperatures range from 19 °C in the south, to 16 °C in the north with rain falling on about one day in three. The rain tends to be quite showery, and an average day will have over six hours of sunshine.

Mark Gibbs, Public Service Manager at the Met Office, said: "It's still too early to give a specific forecast for Election Day itself. Recent elections have seen plenty of different weather illustrating the changeable nature of the UK's weather at this time. We'll have a better idea about the forecast about five days before the day itself."

Notes:

1. These forecasts will be updated between now and Election Day

2. The weather on the last five Election Days is summarised below:

1 May 1997
Dry and sunny across England and Wales. However, it was cloudier across Northern Ireland and Scotland although even here the cloud was thin enough to give some good spells of sunshine.

9 April 1992
Dry with mostly unbroken sunshine across England and Wales. Northern Ireland and Scotland were cloudy with outbreaks of rain affecting north and west Scotland.

11 June 1987
Sunny across South Wales, south-west and central southern England. Elsewhere, cloudy with thunderstorms in the afternoon along a line from North Wales, through London, to north Kent.

9 June 1983
Many places across the UK had light showers during the day. However the cloud broke at times to allow some sunshine.

3 May 1979
Cold and showery everywhere. The showers were mostly light but temperatures were well below normal.

For further information:
Met Office Press Office +44 (0)1392 886655

Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100
If you're outside the UK +44 (0)1392 885680

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